Visit of China by Minister of Commerce

563. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Commerce visited China for five days on 31st May, 1993; and

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and agreements reached with China during the visit for augmentation of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were wide ranging discussions for increasing bilateral trade between India and China. Co-operation in Iron Ore Mining, Railways sector, Communication, Aviation, Water conservancy, Construction, Iron and Steel Processing were discussed. There were also wide ranging discussions with the State Planning Commission of China in Beijing and both sides agreed to have a standing arrangement for exchange of delegations and views in the future.

Agreement with Israel on promotion of Trade and Commerce

564. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed a memoranda of understanding with Israel to promote bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, what are the areas of economic cooperation between the two countries stating the shares in the expansion of trade ties envisaged in MOU;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the two countries for signing an agreement bestowing the status of most favoured nation on each other to promote trade and commerce; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the agreement is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of Economic Cooperation identified in the MOU are industry, agriculture, solar energy, research and development, natural resources, tourism, transport, telecommunications, science & technology, etc. No targets for bilateral trade have been laid down in the MOU.

(c) and (d) India has proposed an Agreement with Israel on Trade and Economic Cooperation, a draft of which has been given to the Government of Israel for consideration. The proposed Agreement includes the "Most Favoured Nation" clause on the lines of similar provisions in our bilateral trade Agreements with other countries. The proposal is at present under the consideration of the Government of Israel. It is not possible at this stage to indicate any definite time frame for finalisation and signing of the proposed Agreement.

Comparable performance of Export and Import

565. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA
SHRI SOM PAL
SRIMATI MIRA DAS
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparable performance of exports and imports during the current year in comparison with the last year;

(b) what is the projected perspective for the current year's external trade turnover;

(c) whether it is a fact that a section of exporters are indulging in over invoicing to bring back the foreign exchange that is deposited clandestinely in foreign banks; and

(d) if so, what are the preventive measures taken to counter this device which encourages clandestine havala market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The data on exports and imports for April-May, 1993, the latest period for which such information is available and